

REMARKS

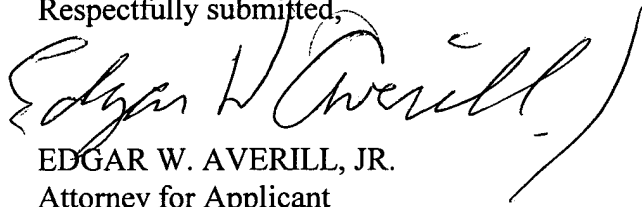
The Office Action of December 15, 2005, has been carefully considered. Claims 1-18 have been cancelled and Claim 19 has been amended.

The examiner rejected Claim 19 as being anticipated by Wilson. Wilson shows a step ladder with a wheel positioned within an opening in the top of one of the bases and the top step. Applicant's Claim 19 as amended requires that the wheel opening for the wheel be proximal to the ladder base and positioned upwardly from said ladder base. In order for a patent to anticipate a claim it must show every feature of the claim and clearly, Wilson does not show a wheel proximal a ladder side proximal to the ladder base, but instead, shows a wheel proximal to the top of the ladder side.

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected as obvious over Gannon in view of either Brown or Wilson. Gannon shows a small wheel attached to the outer surface of a ladder and Brown shows an internally mounted wheel for use adjacent the top of a ladder. Claim 19 as amended calls for the wheel to extend through both sides of the ladder side. In this way a larger diameter wheel can be used which makes rolling the ladder over a rough surface much easier. Brown's opening extends only part way through the ladder side. Wilson's wheel extends past the top of the step ladder and is mounted to the top rather than to the ladder side. Applicant has discovered that by providing an opening near the bottom of a ladder side which is large enough so that the wheel protrudes past both the inner and outer surface of the ladder side, a relatively large wheel may be used. Such large wheel provides a far better rolling action against a rough surface than the small wheel taught by the references cited against Claim 19.

It is believed that Claims 19 and 20 as amended are allowable over the references of record and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edgar W. Averill, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

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